

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

1. **(Currently amended):** A method of linking a first plurality of clients connected to a packet-switched conferencing server to a second plurality of clients connected to a circuit-switched conferencing server, ~~one or more of the first plurality of clients and the second plurality of clients being designated as an active speaker,~~ the method comprising the steps of:

(1) establishing, by the packet-switched conferencing server, a connection to the circuit-switched conferencing server;

(2) designating the connection as an active speaker on the packet-switched conferencing server;

(3) designating one or more of the first plurality of clients as an active speaker on the packet-switched conferencing server;

(4) designating one or more of the second plurality of clients as an active speaker on the circuit-switch conferencing server;

(5) limiting, by the packet-switched conferencing server, one or more of the first plurality of active speaker clients added to the connection;

~~(3)~~ (6) receiving, over the connection, a first audio packet from the circuit-switched conferencing server, wherein the first audio packet is a mixture of packets received from each of the second plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by the circuit-switched conferencing server;

~~(4)~~ (7) receiving, by the packet-switched conferencing server, a plurality of audio packets, wherein the plurality of audio packets comprises a second audio packet from each of the first plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by the packet-switched conferencing server; wherein the plurality of audio packets are received using an asynchronous transmission method;

~~(5)~~ (8) forwarding, over the connection, the second audio packet to the circuit-switched conferencing server;

~~(6)~~ (9) mixing the first audio packet with the second audio packets from the first plurality of clients into a composite packet; and

~~(7)~~ (10) forwarding the composite packet to each of the first plurality of clients connected to the packet-switched conferencing server;

whereby the first and second plurality of clients, using varying equipment and protocols, can simultaneously participate in a single audio conference application;

whereby the packet-switched conferencing server is independent from the circuit-switched conferencing server;

whereby the packet-switched conferencing server keeps a list of the first plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker.

2. **(Withdrawn)**: The method of claim 1, wherein said composite packet is forwarded with echo suppression.

3. **(Currently amended)**: A method of linking a first plurality of clients connected to a circuit-switched conferencing server to a second plurality of clients connected to a packet-switched conferencing server, comprising the steps of:

(1) establishing, by the circuit-switched conferencing server, a connection to the packet-switched conferencing server;

(2) designating the connection as an active speaker on the circuit-switched conferencing server;

(3) designating one or more of the first plurality of clients as an active speaker on the circuit-switched conferencing server;

(4) designating one or more of the second plurality of clients as an active speaker on the packet-switch conferencing server;

(5) limiting, by the packet-switched conferencing server, one or more of the first plurality of active speaker clients added to the connection;

~~(3)~~ (6) receiving, over the connection, a first audio packet from the packet-switched conferencing server, wherein the first audio packet is a mixture of packets received from each of the second plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by the packet-switched conferencing server; wherein the mixture of packets are received using an asynchronous transmission method;

~~(4)~~ (7) receiving, by the circuit-switched conferencing server, a plurality of audio packets, wherein the plurality of audio packets comprises a second audio packet from each of the first plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by the circuit-switched conferencing server;

~~(5)~~ (8) mixing the first audio packet and the second audio packet into one combined audio packet;

~~(6)~~ (9) forwarding the one combined audio packet to each of the first plurality of clients connected to the circuit-switched conferencing server; and

~~(7)~~ (10) forwarding, over the connection, the second audio packet to the packet-switched conferencing server;

whereby the first and second plurality of clients, using varying equipment and protocols, can simultaneously participate in a single audio conference application;

whereby the packet-switched conferencing server is independent from the circuit-switched conferencing server;

whereby the packet-switched conferencing server keeps a list of the first plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker.

4. **(Currently amended):** A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having control logic stored therein for causing a computer to connect a first plurality of clients connected to a packet-switched conferencing server to a second plurality of clients connected to a circuit-switched conferencing server, said control logic comprising:

first computer readable program code means for causing said computer to establish, by said packet-switched conferencing server, a connection to said circuit-switched conferencing server;

second computer readable program code means for causing said computer to designate said connection as an active speaker on said packet-switched conferencing server;

third computer readable program code means for causing said computer to designate one or more of said first plurality of

clients as an active speaker on said packet-switched conferencing server;

fourth computer readable program code means for causing said computer to designate one or more of said second plurality of clients as an active speaker on said circuit-switched conferencing server;

fifth computer readable code means for causing said computer to limit, by said packet-switched conferencing server, one or more of said first plurality of active speaker clients added to said connection;

~~third~~ sixth computer readable program code means for causing said computer to receive, over said connection, a first audio packet from said circuit-switched conferencing server, wherein said first audio packet is a mixture of packets received from each of said second plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by said circuit-switched conferencing server;

~~fourth~~ seventh computer readable program code means for causing said computer to forward said first audio packet to each of said first plurality of clients connected to said packet-switched conferencing server;

~~fifth~~ eighth computer readable program code means for causing said computer to receive, by said packet-switched conferencing server, a plurality of audio packets, wherein said

plurality of audio packets comprises a second audio packet from each of said first plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by said packet-switched conferencing server; wherein said plurality of audio packets are received using an asynchronous transmission method;

~~sixth~~ ninth computer readable program code means for causing said computer to forward, over said connection, said second audio packet to said circuit-switched conferencing server;

whereby said first and second plurality of clients, using varying equipment and protocols, can simultaneously participate in a single audio conference application;

whereby said packet-switched conferencing server is independent from said circuit-switched conferencing server;

whereby said packet-switched conferencing server keeps a list of said first plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker.

5. **(Currently amended):** A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having control logic stored therein for causing a computer to connect a first plurality of clients connected to a circuit-switched conferencing server to a second plurality of clients connected to a packet-switched conferencing server, said control logic comprising:

first computer readable program code means for causing said computer to establish, by said circuit-switched conferencing server, a connection to said packet-switched conferencing server;

second computer readable program code means for causing said computer to designate said connection as an active speaker on said circuit-switched conferencing server;

third computer readable program code means for causing said computer to designate one or more of said first plurality of clients as an active speaker on said circuit-switched conferencing server;

fourth computer readable program code means for causing said computer to designate one or more of said second plurality of clients as an active speaker on said packet-switched conferencing server;

fifth computer readable program code means for causing said computer to limit, by said packet-switched conferencing server, one or more of said second plurality of active speaker clients added to the connection;

~~third~~ sixth computer readable program code means for causing said computer to receive, over said connection, a first audio packet from said packet-switched conferencing server, wherein said first audio packet is a mixture of packets received from each of said second plurality of clients who have been

designated as an active speaker by said packet-switched conferencing server; wherein said mixture of packets are received using an asynchronous transmission method;

~~fourth~~ seventh computer readable program code means for causing said computer to receive, by said circuit-switched conferencing server, a plurality of audio packets, wherein said plurality of audio packets comprises a second audio packet from each of said first plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker by said packet-switched conferencing server;

~~fifth~~ eighth computer readable program code means for causing said computer to mix said first audio packet and said second audio packet into one combined audio packet;

~~sixth~~ ninth computer readable program code means for causing said computer to forward said one combined audio packet to each of said first plurality of clients connected to said circuit-switched conferencing server; and

~~seventh~~ tenth computer readable program code means for causing said computer to forward, over said connection, said second audio packet to said packet-switched conferencing server;

whereby said first and second plurality of clients, using varying equipment and protocols, can simultaneously participate in a single audio conference application; and

whereby said packet-switched conferencing server is independent from said circuit-switched conferencing server;

whereby said packet-switched conferencing server keeps a list of said second plurality of clients who have been designated as an active speaker.